



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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JUVENILE JUSTICE AND MINORITY ISSUES COMMITTEE

TCCY Conference Room, 9th Floor
Thursday, July 27, 2006
1:30 PM

Members Present

Beverly Cosley, Chairperson
Sydney Bynum
Dennis Clark
Cindy Durham
Jim Ford
Drew Johnson
Carlton Lewis
Judge Christy Little
Jerry Maness
Joetta Yarbro

Members Absent

Dana Lesley
Jim Scott
Dwight Stokes

Staff Present

Debrah Stafford, JJ Director
Diane Baham, JJ Admin. Asst.
Michael Cash
Dana Cobb
Marilyn Davis
Kathy Daniels
Fay Delk
Roger Jowers
Richard Kennedy
Ron King
Phil McKenzie
Ashok Midha
John Nixson
Linda O'Neal
Gerald Papica
Robert Smith
Vicki Taylor
Zanira Whitfield
Elaine Williams
Diane Wise

I. Approval of May Minutes.

IT WAS MOVED (FORD) AND SECONDED (LITTLE) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 2006 MEETING OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND MINORITY ISSUES COMMITTEE. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Cosley announced Davis' retirement as Regional Coordinator in the Southeast Region in September and thanked her for her contributions and dedication to the Commission and wished her well.

II. Update on DMC Task Force.

King reported on the most recent Disproportionate Minority Confinement (DMC) Task Force Meeting of April 27th which had approximately 32 persons in attendance. Commissioner Viola Miller, Department of Children's Services (DCS) and Dr. Simon Tidd presented DCS data on children in custody. Dr. Jenny Jones, who has since left the Task Force because she moved to Virginia, also presented on cultural sensitivity training.

Little asked if he and Stokes had put together a training orientation for the judges' conference in August. King stated James Bell, Burns Institute would be presenting at the conference. Stafford and O'Neal would also be presenting along with Judge Steve Teske from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges at the joint session to talk about alternatives to detention and the risk assessment tool.

King continued regarding the five DMC Task Forces and Vista volunteers across the state. Teresa Lurry came to Clarksville in July to speak about DMC issues to the local task force. Attendees stated they learned more in the five hour training than years working with juvenile court. King stated one member of the Montgomery County DMC was murdered recently.

Dr. Michael Lindsey presented at the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) training at Pickwick State Park regarding brain development in juveniles. King and Dennie Littlejohn attended Judge Stokes' DMC training for his juvenile court staff, as well others in the Sevier County area, and there were approximately 60 persons in attendance.

King attended a Vista Volunteer training in Atlanta, July 11-14, and received good information regarding setting goals and objectives. He invited members to attend the next meeting of the DMC Task Force August 15, 2006. Durham asked King about the audit finding and issue of minutes at the DMC Task Force Meetings and King said he had discussed this issue with the local task forces.

King added John Hall, co-chair of the statewide Task Force and chair of the local task force, was involved in a judges' candidate forum with about 100 persons in attendance. Hall has also held a pastoral symposium of 70 churches about the role of churches in reducing DMC. Hall also presented information about DMC and zero tolerance in a Memphis City School principals' academy.

Cosley distributed a handout from Maness from the Juvenile Offenders and Victims National Report 2006. She stated there were interesting facts regarding juvenile offenders. Maness stated a staff member received the article at a Mental Health Conference in Colorado.

Durham gave an update on the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ). They thought the Office of Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) RFP 2006-07 would be out. She reminded members that at the February Commission Meeting, they voted to support the RFP. The RFP has just now come out with a 45 day turnaround, and at least three other agencies will be applying for it. She and Michelle Crowley would be attending the next CJJ meeting in New Orleans. Even if CJJ does not get the contract, the organization will continue as a resource to the State Advisory Groups (SAG) and she will put in her request to continue as CJJ treasurer. Durham will update Commission members at the fall meeting.

III. Update on Letter for New Judges.

Stafford referred members to the two draft letters in their notebooks composed by O'Neal in response to an action item from the last meeting. The letters were to be sent to all new and re-elected judges after elections explaining the Commission's mission and other items of interest. Another component of the action item was having Little and Stokes present to the new judges at the Judges' Academy at the end of August. Stafford also referred members to the handout in their notebooks which included information regarding funds available through TCCY that would be sent to the new judges.

IV. Update on Federal Funding.

Stafford distributed a handout from the Federal Assistance Monitor, July 20, 2006 regarding juvenile justice appropriations for 2007 and what is proposed by the House and Senate and what actually is in the President's Budget. She reviewed the appropriations for proposed funding in Federal Formula Grants, Prevention Block Grants, Title V, JABG, and EUDL. Stafford explained there is no final decision on appropriations. All funds are being reduced and the amount goes down each year. She urged members to contact their Congressional members regarding the importance of these funds.

V. Update on EUDL Orientation Training.

Taylor distributed a handout regarding EUDL orientation held on July 17, 2006. Mary Gordon, Senior Program Manager for the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) from Maryland presented information during orientation. The handout lists the grantees in attendance.

VI. Update on Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) Violations.

McKenzie reviewed information regarding DSO violations. Violations are up in Morgan County. He and Taylor will go there to discuss the issue of the county's increased violations. Overall Tennessee is doing well, but occasionally, there are some problems. There have been 125 violations from July 1, 2005 to May 31, 2006 (11 months). The total is still well within compliance limits, but the goal is to reduce violations below 100. Stafford agreed Tennessee is doing well and coordinators and Juvenile Justice staff are

working hard to keep violations down. McKenzie sends a letter to the judge if a county is about to be out of compliance.

VII. Report on OJJDP Compliance Monitoring Audit Report July 2005.

Stafford reviewed the OJJDP Audit Report. At end of 2005, Larry Fiedler came and conducted a compliance audit for our facilities. He went to the facilities indicated and observed their practices and conditions. Attached is Fiedler's report to TCCY (July 2005) and TCCY's reply to his audit. He found TCCY has one of the better compliance processes (report in notebook). O'Neal sent him clarification on his information. He did mention the poor condition of Rutherford County. Stafford urged members to read the report.

VIII. Update on Program Monitoring.

Stafford referred members to the information regarding program monitoring done by Dannie Epstein and Dick Brewster. They have monitored Federal Formula, EUDL, CASA, Title V, and some of the State Supplement Accounts. So far this year, they have monitored about 48 of 104 programs. Juvenile Justice staff follows up on the findings for corrective action plans.

Cosley stated program monitoring was a very in-depth process which will now become part of regional coordinators' job responsibilities as Epstein and Brewster will be transferring to other state departments.

Ford stated the Audit Committee will be working with regional coordinators so they are not overworked. Cosley stated she hoped all information can be streamlined before the coordinators begin.

X. Other Business.

Maness stated the Annual Joint Conference of Juvenile Court Judges and Court Staff will be held August 6-9, 2006 in Memphis. Stafford said the conference will provide good information about detention reform and DMC and several TCCY staff would be in attendance. Little added there would also be excellent gang information presented.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by:

Minutes approved by:

Diane Baham, Admin. Asst.

Beverly Cosley, Chairperson